



**Board of Regents**

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**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS  
Resolution Adopted April 8, 2011**

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes vest the primary responsibility for governance of the University of Wisconsin System in the Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents' responsibilities include enacting policies and promulgating rules for governing the System, setting systemwide priorities, and planning for the future needs of the state for university education; and

WHEREAS, the effect of the Board of Regents' policy-setting, rulemaking, and planning responsibilities reaches to the borders of the state and beyond; and

WHEREAS, members of the Board of Regents bring to their service on the Board knowledge and awareness of the unique areas of the state in which they reside; and

WHEREAS, with the Wisconsin Idea Partnership, the Board of Regents would receive new flexibilities to help our campuses manage their resources more effectively and better serve the 182,000 students who attend our institutions, and elected leaders need to be sure that the Board of Regents will use those flexibilities to the benefit of all the people of Wisconsin;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the UW System Board of Regents supports 2011 Senate Bill 28 and 2011 Assembly Bill 39, legislation that would amend s. 15.91, Wis. Stats., to provide for the appointment to the Board of Regents of at least one citizen member who resides in each of Wisconsin's congressional districts.



## Testimony in support of AB 39

Assembly Committee on Colleges & Universities

April 28, 2011

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Thank you Chairman Nass, and members of the committee, for the opportunity to share with you the some perspectives on behalf of the Board of Regents regarding AB 39.

AB 39 and its Senate companion, SB 28, were introduced with bipartisan support and call for representation on the Board of Regents by at least one citizen member who resides in each of Wisconsin's seven congressional districts.

As you know, similar legislation has been introduced previously -- by various legislators, in various forms, and over several legislative cycles. We think that is because legislators recognize that, in addition to their understanding and support for a strong University of Wisconsin System, a member of the board of Regents also brings with them the knowledge and awareness of the unique areas of the state in which they reside.

In the past, the Board has been neutral on this issue. It is the legislature and governor that determine the Board membership, and that is as it should be. However, as this debate about more geographic representation on the Board of Regents has continued, the Board's position has evolved. This reflects discussion and action by the legislature, but also reflects the UW regional institutions, many of whom have been vocal in asking for representation closer to home. The current Board of Regents is nearly geographically represented, but there are also a number of appointments occurring now, in 2011.

At its April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board of Regents included this legislation as an agenda item. After a lengthy discussion, the Regents voted 12-5 in favor of a resolution of support for both companion pieces of legislation. A copy of that resolution has been distributed to the committee.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share testimony on behalf of the Board of Regents. I welcome any questions you may have at this time.